

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Nebraska Bird Review

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

3-1979

WHOLE ISSUE *Nebraska Bird Review* (March 1979) 47(1)

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev>



Part of the [Poultry or Avian Science Commons](#), and the [Zoology Commons](#)

"WHOLE ISSUE *Nebraska Bird Review* (March 1979) 47(1)" (1979). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 717.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev/717>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nebraska Bird Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

ISSN 0028-1816

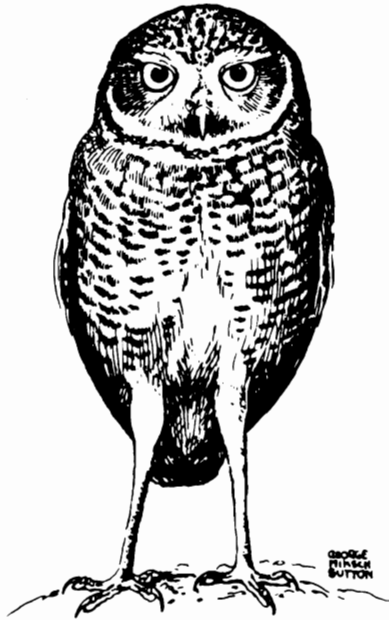
The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

Volume XXXXVII

March, 1979

Number 1



Published by the

NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, INC.

Founded 1899

TABLE OF CONTENTS ON BACK COVER

Published quarterly in March, June, September, and December by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Inc. as its official journal and sent free to all members who are not in arrears for dues. Subscriptions (on a calendar year basis only) are \$5.00 per year in the United States and \$5.75 in all other countries, payable in advance. Single numbers \$1.50 each, postpaid.

Memberships (on a calendar year basis only): Student, \$3.00; Active, \$5.00; Sustaining, \$7.00; Family Active, \$7.00; Family Sustaining \$9.00; Life \$75.00.

All dues and subscriptions should be remitted to the Treasurer, W.W. Lemburg, R.R. 1, Box 96, Cairo, Nebraska 68824. Orders for back numbers of the Review should be sent to, Dr. Neva Pruess, Librarian, Nebraska Ornithologists Union, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588.

All manuscripts for publication, and all changes in address, should be sent to the Editor, R.G. Cortelyou, 5109 Underwood Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68132.

Other officers are: President, Dr. Harvey L. Gunderson 1200 Superior Lincoln, Nebraska 68521; Vice-president, Mrs. Ruth C. Green, 506 West 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005; and Secretary, Mrs. C.E. Johnson, Apt. 406, 604 S. 22nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

1978 TREASURER'S REPORT

			Cash	Invest- ments	Cash in Other Years	Current Account	Total Assets
Balance 1 January 1978			935.41	3,614.79	581.26		3,968.94
RECEIPTS							
Member-	108 Active	\$5.00	540.00				
ships	33 Family Active	7.00	231.00				
	20 Sustaining	7.00	140.00				
	6 Family						
	Sustaining	9.00	54.00				
	1 Student	3.00	3.00				
	Past due paid		9.00			977.00	
Subscrip-	11 Direct	\$5.00	55.00				
tions	25 Agency	4.50	112.50				
	2 Foreign		9.25				
	Past due paid		20.00			196.75	
Miscel-	Field Record cards		12.55				
aneous	Check-lists		48.25				
	Review Copies		273.25				
	Slides and misc.		4.50				
	Interest Eared		215.72	33.14		587.41	
	Total receipts		1,728.02	33.14		1,761.16	
EXPENSES							
Review	Printing		953.47		444.08		
	Postage		65.00			1,462.55	
	(Includes Newsletter)						
Officers'	R. G. Cortelyou		101.99				
expen-	A. W. Madison		15.14				
ditures	Wm. Lemburg		18.21			135.34	
Miscel-	Newsletter		50.47		5.85		
aneous	Meeting (net)		67.18				
	Printing (Cards)		24.52			148.02	
	Total expenses		1,295.98		449.93	1,745.91	
	Current operations						15.25
Donations			7.00				7.00
	Prepaid items used above	(405.50)			(405.50)		
	1077 Accounts Payable paid	(175.76)			(175.76)		
	1979 Memberships prepaid	72.00			72.00		
	1979 Subscriptions prepaid	93.55			93.55		
Balance 31 December 1978			958.74	3,647.93	615.48		3,991.19

The Breeding Birds of Nebraska

Paul A. Johnsgard

This brief annotated list of Nebraska's breeding birds is the direct outgrowth of the work involved in the preparation of a forthcoming book titled "The Birds of the Great Plains," which will include range maps for all species except extinct or extirpated ones, and will also provide information on breeding habitat, nest location, clutch size, incubation period, and breeding biology. The purpose of the present compilation is to provide a convenient summary for Nebraska alone, amplifying some of the more general statements of that book, and pointing out uncertain or interesting situations needing further attention from field ornithologists. It includes 201 species of birds believed to currently breed or have bred in the state, as well as 14 extinct or apparently extirpated species, 5 unsuccessfully introduced species, and 13 hypothetical breeders.

The only recent summary of Nebraska's bird fauna (Rapp et al., 1958) does not always provide a clear distinction between breeding and non-breeding species, and additionally not only accepts some old statements of breeding that now appear to have been unwarranted, but also the most recent findings are of course excluded. (The *supplement through 1970* did not attempt to bring up to date the comments on the breeding status made in the 1958 edition.)

The present paper includes state and regional literature through the March 1978 issue, Volume 46, of *Nebraska Bird Review*, and the 1977 volume of *American Birds*, plus unpublished information on the 1978 breeding season that became available to me through various sources. The annual breeding bird survey data published in *Nebraska Bird Review* was surveyed and summarized through 1977 for me by Christi Nordeen as a special undergraduate project, and Dr. Calvin Cink kindly provided me with still-unpublished information on the breeding birds of Dundy County. The papers by Short (1961, 1965a) have proven especially valuable in estimating western range limits for a number of eastern species. Other useful county summaries are those for Gage County (Fiala, 1970), and Lincoln County (Tout, 1947), and Rosche (1977) has provided a very helpful summary for the northwestern counties. Mr. Rosche has also provided me with a number of unpublished records.

Current Breeders

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). Apparently accidental. Has reportedly bred in Valentine County (Swenk, 1933) but the closest area of regular breeding is north-central South Dakota.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*). A fairly common breeder in western and northern Nebraska, including most of the area north of the Platte River. Nebraska represents the southeastern limit of breeding of this species in the Plains States.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). Breeding occurs in western and northern Nebraska, primarily on the larger Sandhills marshes. This is the southeastern limit of breeding of this species in the Plains States.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). Breeds locally throughout Nebraska, on ponds of varying sizes, but always those having heavy emergent vegetation.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). Breeds in colonies in several locations in the western half of the state, east to Cherry County and the vicinity of North Platte. There are scattered breeding records for Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, but Nebraska seems to be the southern limit of regular breeding in the Plains States.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). Breeds in colonies in various locations throughout the state, often nesting in association with Cormorants around reservoirs.

Green Heron (*Butorides striatus*). Breeds over most of Nebraska excepting the Panhandle and the western Sandhills.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*). Accidental, with breeding records for Lancaster and Scotts Bluff counties (Rapp et al., 1958).

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Breeds locally in suitable habitats throughout the state except perhaps the driest portions of western Nebraska.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). There is a single breeding record for Nebraska, from Sarpy County, in 1963 (*NBR* 32:9).

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*). This species is apparently rare in Nebraska, judging from the few nesting records. It breeds locally in the eastern half of the state, and perhaps has its western limits in Garden County, where it has been seen during summer at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Breeds locally throughout the state in suitable habitats, with the Sandhills marshes providing the optimum habitat.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*). Accidental. There is a single 1904 breeding record for Clay County (Swenk, 1918). A few other records exist for the Plains States, but the species must be considered rare and erratic throughout the region.

Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*). A rare and local nester. Originally nested in the state, but extirpated and apparently absent until recolonization occurred in the late 1960's as a result of releases made in Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, South Dakota. Initial successful breeding in the northern Sandhills (near Gordon) occurred in 1968, and there are now several records for Cherry and Sheridan counties, as well as reported breeding in Morrill County (Harold Burgess, pers. comm.) Peabody (1974) has documented the early years (to 1973) of Trumpeter Swan reproduction in the state. Birds have also been released and have reproduced at the William Mahon ranch, Dundy County, and the offspring might thus begin to colonize southwestern Nebraska.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). Breeds locally throughout the northern Sandhills and at Crescent Lake Refuge in Garden County, as a result of restocking efforts. Establishment of birds in eastern Nebraska (Lancaster County) has been attempted, but so far there has been little success.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Breeds locally throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). Breeds locally in Nebraska, primarily north of the Platte River and especially in the Sandhills. Breeds south to the Rainwater Basin of Clay and adjacent counties. There are relatively few breeding records for Kansas, so Nebraska represents the southernmost area of regular breeding in the Plains States.

Pintail (*Anas acuta*). Breeds locally throughout Nebraska in suitable habitats.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*). Breeds locally in Nebraska, but essentially limited to the northern half of the state and concentrated in the Sandhills. There seem to be no state breeding records from south of the Platte River, and only one Kansas record.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*). Breeds commonly in suitable habitats throughout the state, and probably the commonest breeding duck in the state.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*). Apparently a very rare breeder in the state, but confusion with the Blue-winged Teal makes the status of this species very difficult to estimate. The birds are occasionally present during summer at Crescent Lake Refuge, and there is a probable breeding record for the refuge.

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*). A local and generally uncommon breeder in Nebraska, apparently confined to the northwestern parts of the Sandhills (south and east to Garden and Cherry counties). Nebraska represents the southernmost area of breeding of this species in the Plains States.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*). Breeds commonly to uncommonly in suitable habitats throughout Nebraska except for the southeastern corner.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). Breeding in Nebraska is primarily limited to the Missouri's forested valley and the lower portions of the Platte valley, probably west to about Kearney. This species has responded to management and the erection of nesting boxes, and seems to be gradually extending its range westwardly. Probable family groups have been seen as far west as Box Butte Reservoir, Dawes County, Victoria Springs, Custer County, and the Clear Creek marshes, Garden County (R. Rosche, pers. comm.)

Redhead (*Aythya americana*). Breeds locally in the Nebraska Sandhills (west to Garden County), and also in the Rainwater Basin. Except for a few Kansas nesting records, this represents the southernmost area of regular breeding in the Plains States.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*). A rare breeder in the Nebraska Sandhills (Crescent Lake and Valentine refuges). The nearest area of regular breeding is in northeastern South Dakota and adjoining eastern North Dakota.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*). A local and rare breeder in the Nebraska Sandhills, which represents the southernmost area of regular breeding in the Plains States.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). An occasional breeder in the Nebraska Sandhills (Garden, Morrill, Cherry, and Brown counties), which represents the southernmost area of breeding in the Plains States.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). An uncommon and very local breeder in some of the deeper marshes of the Nebraska Sandhills and in the Rainwater Basin. Breeding to the south of Nebraska is infrequent and local.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*). The only evidence of breeding in the state is the sight record of a brood in Custer County in 1968 (*NBR* 37:45). This species is regular in summer in the Lake Alice area, Scotts Bluff County, and breeding has been suspected (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). Apparently a local breeder along some of the major river systems (Republican, Missouri, and Niobrara rivers), and in the Pine Ridge area of the northwestern Panhandle (*NBR* 39:19).

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*). Apparently a rare nester. The only specific records are for Sioux County (Bruner, Wolcott, and Swenk 1904), but the species probably also nests in the Missouri's forested valley, since it is known to be an uncommon breeder as close as Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Missouri.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). Uncertain, but probably a rare nester in the Missouri River forests of eastern Nebraska. Believed by Rapp et al. (1958) to be a resident throughout the state, but there is no evidence favoring this view. There are some recent summer records from the Pine Ridge area, and also an observation of an adult carrying food near Alma, Harlan County (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). Breeds throughout the state, primarily in wooded areas of the eastern half.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). Breeds virtually throughout the state, but is more common in the western half, and the eastern limits of regular breeding are probably west of a line from Gage to Burt counties.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*). A local and uncommon breeder in western Nebraska, with the eastern limits of regular breeding probably west of a line from Dundy to Keya Paha counties.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). A rare and local breeder in western Nebraska, especially in the Pine Ridge area (Rosche 1977), and with records from as far east as Lincoln County.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Accidental. There is a single record of an attempted nesting in Cedar County in 1973 (*NBR* 41:76). The nearest area of regular breeding is in northwestern Minnesota.

Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus*). Breeds throughout the entire state, probably most commonly in the Sandhills.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Accidental. There is a single old Nebraska nesting record, from Cass County, (Bruner, Wolcott, and Swenk 1904). The nearest area of regular breeding is in northwestern Minnesota.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). A local and rare breeder in the northwestern Panhandle, with nesting records for Dawes and Sioux counties (Rapp et al., 1958), as well as for Sheridan County (R. Rosche, pers. comm.). Potentially breeds in and should be looked for in Scotts Bluff, Banner, and Kimball counties as well.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). Extremely rare breeder in the Pine Ridge area, with specific records for Dawes County, in 1975 (*NBR* 43:78), and another nesting in 1978, also in Dawes County (Ross Lock, pers. comm.).

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Relatively common breeder throughout the state.

Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*). A local breeder in various parts of the state, especially on the eastern half of the Sandhills, but also in southwestern Nebraska and in a few southeastern counties. The range is discontinuous, and is probably locally declining.

Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*). A common breeder over much of the state, primarily north of the Platte River and with its eastern limits approximating those of the Sandhills. Once much more widespread, and probably bred throughout the entire state (Johnsgard and Woods, 1968).

Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). Breeds commonly throughout the eastern and southern portions of the state, extending into the Sandhills along river drainages, and reaching the Wyoming and Colorado borders along the North Platte and South Platte rivers and the tributaries of the Republican River. The western range limits of this species are highly variable, depending on yearly weather conditions.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). Introduced and now breeding virtually throughout the state, but more common in the eastern half.

Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Originally native to Nebraska, but extirpated from the state. Reintroductions in many areas have reestablished the species, especially in the Pine Ridge area and along several of the major river systems.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). An apparently rare breeder in eastern Nebraska, with few actual records. It probably breeds locally east of a line from Jefferson to Knox counties, and possibly also breeds in the Clear Creek marshes at the west end of Lake McConaughy (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*). A local but probably fairly common breeder in suitable habitats throughout the state except for the extreme northwestern corner. It is a regular at Crescent Lake Refuge, and around University Lake in southern Sioux County, and occurs locally elsewhere in Sioux and Dawes counties (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Sora (*Porzana carolina*). A locally common breeder nearly throughout the state, including the western Panhandle, being found at University Lake, Sioux County, and locally elsewhere (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*). An apparently rare breeder in Nebraska, with a few scattered and old breeding records (Cherry, Lincoln, Douglas counties). The usual western limits of its breeding range seem to be in Iowa, and these Nebraska records are apparently extralimital.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*). A common to abundant breeder in suitable localities throughout the state, probably being most numerous in the Sandhills.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). The present status of this species is somewhat uncertain, but it probably should be considered threatened. There are several older nesting records for the Niobrara, North and South Platte, Loup, and Missouri rivers, but most of the recent records seem to be for the Missouri River from Douglas to Washington counties, and Lake McConaughy, Keith County, where it probably nests (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). A common breeding bird throughout the state.

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*). A rare breeder in extreme western Nebraska, with a 1974 record of young for Kimball County (NBR 43:54) the only probable case of breeding in this state.

American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*). Apparently an accidental or very rare breeder in eastern Nebraska. There is a 1972 record for Sarpy County (NBR 43:43), and some possible earlier nestings (Bruner, Wolcott, and Swenk 1904). The nearest area of regular breeding is in western Minnesota, but scattered cases of breeding in Kansas and Oklahoma suggest that some birds may never reach their breeding grounds from the wintering areas and sometimes attempt to breed in suitable habitats.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*). A very rare or highly local breeder in the state. The only records seem to be from Garden County, and more recently, Rock County (NBR 38:17). However it is regular in summer at the Clear Creek marshes, Garden County, and in the Pine Creek drainage north of Smith Lake in Sheridan County, so nesting is very likely (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*). Largely limited to the Sandhills and western High Plains of Nebraska, where it is a locally common breeder. Its eastern breeding limit in Nebraska (which is also its overall eastern range limit) seems to coincide with the eastern edge of the Sandhills.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). Breeds locally in suitable habitats throughout the state including the High Plains of the western counties, but most common in the Sandhills.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). Breeds in suitable habitats throughout the state.

Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). A locally common breeder in the Sandhills region, but apparently absent from the rest of the state. This area represents the southernmost part of the species' breeding range in the Plains States.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). A locally common breeder in the Sandhills region, and also found in suitable habitats in the western and southwestern portions of the state. There seems to be no record of breeding for areas east of the Sandhills.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*). Breeds commonly in suitable habitats in central and western Nebraska, particularly the Sandhills. The limits of breeding appear to be west of a line from Thayer to Thurston counties.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). A very rare or accidental breeder in the state, with the only records apparently being some from Garden County (NBR 34:63; 35:32). The nearest area of regular breeding is in east-central South Dakota.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). Apparently a highly localized breeder in the state, with most records from Garden County (regular breeder at Crescent Lake), and occasional breeding elsewhere in the Sandhills. It apparently breeds regularly in some Sheridan County marshes such as Peter Long Lake, and probably nests occasionally at Smith Lake (R. Rosche, pers. comm.). There is only a single nesting record from farther south (Barton County, Kansas) in the Plains States.

Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*). Breeds locally and probably irregularly in suitable habitats in the Platte and Niobrara valleys. Rare and probably declining in the state.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*). Breeds in suitable habitats throughout the state, but most common in the Sandhills. The southern limit of breeding is extremely unclear but is probably southern Nebraska, since there is only a single definite Kansas breeding record.

Rock Dove (*Columba livia*). An introduced species that now breeds throughout the state.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*). This species breeds abundantly throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). A relatively common breeder in wooded habitats throughout the state, becoming rarer toward the northwest. The northern limits of breeding in the Plains States are in South Dakota.

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*). A relatively common breeder in wooded habitats throughout the state, occurring in slightly more heavily wooded habitats than the last species, and being more northerly in its general distribution. However, in western and northwestern areas it is a good deal rarer than the Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). Probably an uncommon and local breeder throughout the state, but there are a few actual nesting records. The northern limits of breeding in the Plains States occurs in South Dakota, and in Nebraska the species is probably more common in the more southerly counties.

Screech Owl (*Otus asio*). A fairly common breeder throughout the state, wherever wooded habitats provide nesting sites.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). Breeds uncommonly throughout the state, probably being most common in wooded river valleys and the Pine Ridge area.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Breeds over most of the state with the exception of the southeastern corner, but rare and irregular at the eastern edge. Recent breeding has occurred at least as far east as Lancaster County, but the species is regular only in western areas where prairie dog colonies are still present, or where other mammal-dug burrows are available.

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). Breeds throughout the Missouri's forested valley, westward along the Platte valley an uncertain distance. At one time breeding may have occurred as far west along the Platte valley as the Colorado line, but there seems to be no evidence for recent breeding in central or western Nebraska.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*). Probably a rare to uncommon breeder in suitable habitats throughout the state, and apparently largely limited to the major river valleys.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). Apparently a local breeder throughout the state in suitable habitats, but probably most common in the Sandhills. The southern limits of breeding in the Plains States are probably southwestern Nebraska in the west and east-central Kansas toward the east.

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*). Breeding apparently occurs in the Missouri's forested valley from the South Dakota to the Missouri borders, and probably also in Pawnee County (NBR 42:6), along the Big Nemaha River, but evidently not as far west as Gage County.

Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*). Breeds commonly in the western part of the state, generally west of a line from Sheridan to Harlan counties. There are occasional nestings farther east, at least as far as Lancaster County (NBR 45:42).

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*). Breeds commonly throughout the state, especially around cities.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). Breeds locally throughout most of the state, becoming uncommon toward the west, and with the probable normal breeding limits east of a line from Dawes to Hitchcock counties.

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*). Breeding is limited to the Pine Ridge area, the vicinity of Scottsbluff, and the Wildcat Hills of western Nebraska (Rosche, 1977; Rapp et al., 1958).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). Breeding occurs in eastern Nebraska at least in the Missouri's forested valley, and an uncertain distance to the west along the Platte and other major river valleys.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*). Breeds locally in suitable habitats throughout the state.

Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). This species breeds commonly throughout the state. Both the yellow-shafted and red-shafted forms occur in the state, but hybrids are numerous in a zone of contact that includes much of western Nebraska (Short, 1965b).

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). Breeds commonly in the eastern riparian forests, and extends west locally along the Niobrara valley at least to the Valentine area of eastern Cherry County, the Platte valley to Lincoln County, and the Republican valley to Dundy County.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). Breeds commonly in riparian forests and open woodlands nearly throughout the state, extending west into Colorado along the Platte valley and reaching or nearly reaching the Wyoming border in the Pine Ridge area. Occupying slightly more open areas than does the Red-bellied Woodpecker, it is more common in western parts of the state than is that species.

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*). Reportedly a rare resident in the Pine Ridge of northwestern Nebraska (Bruner, Wolcott, and Swenk 1904; Rapp et al., 1958), and there is also a possible nesting record for Logan County (Glandon 1948). Richard Rosche (pers. comm.) doubts whether this species nests in the state any longer, although a few birds summered in 1978 at Chadron State Park. He regards it as a threatened species in the state.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*). Breeds in suitable habitats throughout the state, but probably most common in eastern riparian forests.

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*). Breeds in suitable wooded habitats throughout the state, and occupying essentially the same habitats as those of the Hairy Woodpecker.

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Breeds in suitable habitats throughout the state, generally somewhat more common toward the east.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Breeds commonly throughout the state, with the possible exception of the extreme southeastern counties (Richardson, Nemaha), which are near the easternmost limit of normal breeding for this species.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*). A very rare breeder in south-central and southeastern Nebraska (with records for Adams, Lancaster, Logan, Gage, and Clay counties.) The usual northern limit of the breeding range is in north-central Kansas, but sporadic nestings in Nebraska can be expected.

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). Breeds in wooded habitats in the eastern half of the state, mainly along the larger river valleys, but extending locally west to Sioux County (Sowbelly Canyon) in the north, Deuel County along the South Platte, and Dundy County along the Republican valley.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). Breeds commonly in wooded habitats in eastern Nebraska, and extends along river systems locally as far west as Sioux, Brown, Lincoln, and Dundy counties in White, Niobrara, Platte, and Republican valleys respectively.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*). Breeds commonly in western Nebraska, extending east locally at least to Cuming, York, and Clay counties, which represent the usual eastern limits of this species' range.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*). Breeding is apparently restricted to the Missouri's forested valley, with uncertain northern limits. At one time breeding probably extended to the South Dakota border, but its range has evidently retracted in the last 50 years.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). Breeding is fairly common in the Sandhills area, west at least to Cherry, Thomas, and Keith counties. The Panhandle is possibly also part of the species' range, but the known western limits are Smith Lake, Sheridan County, and Shell Lake, Cherry County (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*). Apparently a very rare breeder in the state. There are early reports of breeding for Omaha and Dakota City, and more recently pairs on territory have been reported in Brown County (*NBR* 33:2). Territorial birds have also been seen at Whitney Lake and Box Butte Reservoir, Dawes County (R. Rosche, pers. comm.). Apparently northern and northeastern Nebraska represents the species' southern breeding limits in the Plains States.

Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*). A very rare or accidental breeder, with only a single state record, for Sioux County (*NBR* 43:18).

Eastern Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*). Breeding occurs commonly in the woodlands of eastern Nebraska, with local nesting extending west along river systems at least as far west as Dawes, Cherry, Deuel, and Dundy counties. There seems to be no records for breeding within the Sandhills area.

Western Wood Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*). Breeding occurs in western and several northwestern counties (Sioux, Dawes, and Scotts Bluff) and extends an unknown distance farther east but apparently at least to Garden County (Fred Zeilemaker, pers. comm.). Hybridization with *virens* possibly occurs in the Niobrara valley west of Valentine (*NBR* 29:15), but the eastern limits of this species in the Platte valley are quite uncertain.

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). Breeding occurs commonly throughout the state in open grassland habitats.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*). Breeding is limited to northwestern areas of the Pine Ridge, to the vicinity of Scottsbluff, and to the Wildcat Hills (Rapp et al. 1958; Rosche 1977).

Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*). Breeding occurs in eastern Nebraska, probably primarily in the Missouri's forested valley, but probably extends west as far as Cherry County in the Niobrara valley and Hall County in the Platte valley. It is also a regular nester at Whitney Lake, Dawes County, and may nest at Cottonwood Lake, Cherry County (R. Rosche, pers. comm.)

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). Breeds throughout the state. The southern and western limits of breeding in the Plains States are extremely hard to define, but there seems to be little breeding in eastern Colorado or western Kansas, so Nebraska and eastern Kansas may represent the approximate limits for regular breeding in the Plains States.

Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*). Breeding occurs throughout the state, but it is less common in the western portions than in the east.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Breeding occurs throughout the state wherever there are suitable nesting sites and foraging areas.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhorota*). Breeding occurs throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*). The western limits of breeding in this human-adapted species can be described as extending along a line from eastern Cherry County southward through Red Willow County, with Ogallala and Lewellen representing the approximate present westernmost breeding areas.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). A common breeder throughout the state, wherever a combination of trees and grassland can be found.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*). Breeding occurs throughout the western half of the state, with the eastern limits approximately defined by a line drawn from Boyd to Nuckolls counties.

White-necked Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*). Apparently a rare and irregular breeder in south-central and southwestern Nebraska. There are probable nesting records from Adams and Kearney counties (*NBR* 44:38-39), and also one records for Dundy County (*NBR* 45:16). The species' northern limit of regular breeding is in northwestern Kansas, not far from the Nebraska line.

Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Breeds throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Scrub Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*). A local but "fairly common" breeder in the Pine Ridge area (Rapp et al. 1958).

Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*). Breeds in wooded habitats throughout eastern Nebraska, but apparently largely absent from the Sandhills. The species occurs along the Niobrara River for its entire length, almost to the Wyoming border in Sioux County, and also extends into Colorado in the South Platte and Republican River valleys.

Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*). Breeding is largely limited to the Missouri's forested valley, north probably to the South Dakota border, and it also extends west along the Big Blue valley to at least as far as Saline County (Short, 1961).

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*). Breeds in suitable wooded habitats in the eastern part of the state, extending locally as far west as the Pine Ridge area, and to at least Hall County in the Platte valley.

Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*). Probably a regular breeder in the Pine Ridge area, but there is only a single state record, for Sioux County (NBR 40:70). It is apparently cyclical in the Pine Ridge, but is regular in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux County, and also nests at least as far east as Chadron State Park, Dawes County (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*). Probably a rare breeder in the Missouri's forested valley. There are several pre-1900 records for the eastern part of the state, but the first recent one is for 1975, in Sarpy County (NBR 43:80). It was reported again in 1977 (NBR 46:14). Nesting in the Pine Ridge area is likely but unproven; territorial males there are heard each summer (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). A common breeder throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*). Breeding is rare and probably limited to extreme southeastern Nebraska. Breeding may exceptionally occur as far west as Kearney (Rapp et al. 1958), and nesting has also been reported from Gage County (Fiala, 1970), but earlier suggestions that it breeds in western Nebraska are certainly erroneous. This is the northernmost area of the species' breeding range in the Plains State.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). Breeding is limited to extreme southeastern Nebraska, periodically or locally extending north to Douglas County and west to Lancaster and Nuckolls counties. This represents the northernmost extension of the species' range in the Plains States.

Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*). Breeding is mostly limited to the area north of the Platte River, with local or infrequent breeding south of the Platte (NBR 39:74).

Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*). Breeding is mostly confined to the eastern third of Nebraska, or east of a line from Knox to Gage counties. The Sandhills are not a part of this species' regular Nebraska range, which contrasts with the situation for the Long-billed Marsh Wren.

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*). Breeding seems to be generally limited to that part of the state that lies west of the Sandhills, with local breeding extending as far east as Cherry, Custer, and Lincoln counties.

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). Although Mockingbirds have been found nesting nearly everywhere in the state, including as far northwest as Sioux County in the Panhandle and north to Thomas and Greeley counties in the Sandhills, the usual breeding limits can be perhaps described as including all but the western half of the northern third of the state. Breeding is rare in South Dakota, and thus Nebraska can be considered to represent the normal northern breeding limits for the Plains States.

Gray Catbird (*Dumatella carolinensis*). Breeds fairly commonly in suitable habitats throughout the state, but becoming rarer northwestwardly and apparently retreating from the Pine Ridge, where habitat is decreasing (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Breeding occurs almost throughout the state, with the possible exception of the area south of the North Platte River in extreme western Nebraska.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). A common breeder in suitable habitats throughout the state.

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata*). Breeds locally in wooded habitats in eastern areas, extending west locally to Cherry, Lincoln, and Thomas counties (NBR 29:9; 34:18).

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*). Apparently a very rare breeder in the Pine Ridge, with a single known record, for Dawes County (NBR 42:17). It is a common breeder in the Black Hills, and thus occasional Pine Ridge nesting should not be surprising.

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). Breeding is mostly confined to the eastern half of the state, but along wooded river drainages there is breeding as far west as Dawes County in the White River drainage, to Brown or perhaps Cherry County in the Niobrara valley, and the Colorado border in the South Platte and Republican valleys. There is also local breeding in the eastern Sandhills where wooded habitats permit.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*). Breeding is confined to the Panhandle area of Nebraska, particularly the Pine Ridge of Sioux, Dawes, and Sheridan counties and the Wildcat Hills of Banner County.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*). Breeding has been reported only once for the state, in Sioux County, and it is very doubtful whether this species should still be considered a part of the state's breeding avifauna (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*). Breeding is limited to the Missouri's forested valley, north possibly as far as the South Dakota border, and smaller tributary valleys in the southeastern corner, west probably to about Lancaster County (NBR 43:23).

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). The overall range is slightly uncertain, but at least includes the Missouri's forested valley south probably to about the Kansas border, the Pine Ridge area, and locally elsewhere such as Scottsbluff and probably the Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest (NBR 39:16; 45:3). Although there are scattered nesting records farther south, Nebraska seems to represent the general southern limits of regular breeding in the Plains States.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanus ludovicianus*). Breeds throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). This self-introduced species now breeds commonly throughout the state.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). The northern limits of this species in the Plains States are reached in the lower part of the Missouri's forested valley, probably at least as far north as Sarpy County (Rapp et al, 1958).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*). Breeds in suitable habitats throughout most of the state excepting the extreme western part of the state and the drier parts of the Sandhills. Western limits are probably Dawes County in the Pine Ridge, Cherry County in the Niobrara valley, Garden County in the North Platte valley, and the Colorado border in the valleys of the South Platte and Republican rivers.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*). Breeding occurs along the Missouri's forested valley from South Dakota to Kansas, westward along the Niobrara valley at least to Brown County, along the Sandhills rivers west to at least Garfield County, and along the Platte valley west to at least Hall County.

Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*). A rare summer resident in the Pine Ridge, especially in the westernmost canyons of Sioux County, such as Sowbelly Canyon (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). Breeding is mostly limited to the eastern half of the state, but along wooded river valleys it extends to Sioux (White River), Cherry (Niobrara), Thomas (Nebraska National Forest), and the Colorado border (South Platte). The western limit along the Republican valley is probably about Dundly County (Cink, pers. comm.).

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*). This species has a somewhat broader breeding distribution in Nebraska than the Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, extending west to the Pine Ridge (Rosche 1977), occurring virtually throughout the Sandhills in suitable habitats, and extending west to the Colorado border along the South Platte (NBR 29:9), and to Dundly County on the Republican River (Cink, pers. comm.).

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). This species is commonest in the Missouri and Niobrara river valleys, extending in the latter valley west probably to Cherry County, and it also nests in the Pine Ridge (Short 1961; Rosche 1977). However, there is no evidence that it follows the Platte valley westward to any significant extent. The breeding range in South Dakota seems to be appreciably greater than that of Nebraska.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). Breeding is limited to the lower part of the Missouri's forested valley, with occasional breeding as far north as Sarpy County (NBR 45:5).

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*). Breeds throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). Breeding is limited to the Pine Ridge area, at least including Sioux and probably Dawes counties (NBR 40:41).

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*). Breeding is limited to the lower part of the Missouri's forested valley, extending at least to Sarpy County, where nesting has occurred several times (Rapp et al 1958). A female with a well-developed brood-patch was netted in Sarpy County in July 1978 (NBR 46:86).

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). An accidental breeder, with a 1894 nesting record for near Omaha, and a 1975 breeding record for Scotts Bluff County (NBR 44:10).

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). breeding is apparently restricted to the Pine Ridge (Rosche 1977), the Niobrara valley west at least to Cherry County (Short 1961), and the Missouri's forested valley south to the Kansas border.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporonis formosus*). Breeding is limited to the lower part of the Missouri's forested valley, north to at least Sarpy County (Rapp et al. 1958).

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Breeding occurs throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). Breeding occurs in suitable habitats virtually throughout the state, including the extreme western Panhandle, where it occurs locally as far west as the Wyoming line (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). Breeding occurs throughout the Missouri's forested valley, the Pine Ridge, probably all of the Niobrara valley, perhaps locally in the Sandhills (Bessey Division of Nebraska National Forest), and sporadically in the Platte valley west to Adams County (*NBR* 36:40) and perhaps to Phelps County (Short 1961).

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). This introduced species breeds throughout the state.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Breeding occurs locally throughout most of the state, west to Sioux County in the Panhandle, and Garden County in the Sandhills, with the usual southern limits probably occurring between the Platte and Republican rivers. Cink (pers. comm.) has reported a nest in Dundey County. There have been a few breedings in Kansas, but southern Nebraska seems to represent the normal southern limits for breeding in the Plains States.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*). The limits of breeding in Nebraska for this species are most uncertain and in need of study. The only area where the species can be considered common is the eastern and southeastern corner (east of a line from Gage to Thurston counties), but there is local breeding along river courses and wet meadows as far west as Sioux and Garden counties and it is nearly as common as the Western Meadowlark at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and probably elsewhere in wet meadow habitats in the Sandhills. The species also extends west along the Platte River to the Colorado border, where hybridization with the Western Meadowlark seem to be several times more frequent than elsewhere in the Plains States (Rohwer 1971; *Trans. Kansas Academy Sciences* 75:19).

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). A common to abundant breeder throughout the state except possibly in the extreme southeastern corner.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). Breeds in suitable habitats throughout the state.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Breeds throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). Breeds virtually throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). As a species, breeding occurs throughout the state, with a zone of contact and hybridization between *galbula* and *bullockii* occurring in the western part of the state (*Condor* 66:130-150, 79:335-42).

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). The breeding range is slightly uncertain, but probably regular breeding occurs only in the northwestern corner of the state (west of a line from Kimball to Sheridan counties), with sporadic breeding elsewhere (Hale, Lancaster, and Johnson Counties).

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*). Two breedings of this species in 1977 Douglas (Douglas and Adams counties) have been documented (*NBR* 45:18), indicating that northward range expansion from Kansas has occurred. Whether the species will become established in Nebraska remains to be seen.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*). Breeding occurs throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Breeding occurs throughout the state in suitable habitats.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*). Breeds uncommonly in the Pine Ridge area, possibly extending east in the Niobrara valley far enough to come into contact with the Scarlet Tanager (*NBP* 59:13).

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*). Breeds in the Missouri's forested valley, west in the Niobrara valley to at least Cherry County (Short, 1961), and west in the Platte valley an uncertain distance.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). Breeds in the lower part of the Missouri's forested valley, occasionally north to at least Sarpy County. This represents the northernmost limit of breeding in the Plains States, and Nebraska thus is probably the only state in the Union having these three tanager species breeding within its borders.

Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). Breeds widely in the eastern half of the state, and extends west nearly to the Wyoming border along the North Platte River, and to the Colorado border in the South Platte and Republican valleys. It is apparently absent from the western Sandhills, and except along the Platte rivers is generally found east of a line extending from Keith to central Cherry counties.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). Breeds in wooded habitats in the eastern part of the state, west to Holt, Garfield, and Phelps counties (NBR 29:19), or generally east of a line from Furnas to Holt counties.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*). Breeds in western Nebraska, eastward locally to at least Rock, Garfield, and Hall counties (NBR 29:19). Hybridization with the Rose-breasted Grosbeak makes the eastern range limits difficult to establish with certainty (Auk 79:399-424; Wilson Bulletin 85:230-6).

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). Breeds in suitable habitats virtually throughout the state, but uncommon and quite local in the east, and rare in the Pine Ridge (Rosche 1977).

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). Breeds in eastern Nebraska west to the Pine Ridge in the Panhandle, to central Sandhills, and to the Colorado border along the South Platte valley. Otherwise apparently absent from the Panhandle and the western Sandhills.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). This species is probably most common in the Pine Ridge, and generally is limited to west of a line from Keith to eastern Cherry counties. Birds occurring farther east are likely to be affected by hybridization, especially in the Platte valley (Auk 76:443-463; Wilson Bulletin 87:145-77).

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). Breeding occurs nearly throughout the state, excepting the extreme west and southwestern areas, or generally east of a line from Sioux to Dundy counties.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). Breeding is essentially restricted to the western Panhandle (from Scottsbluff County southward). There is also an isolated population in Lincoln County (NBR 21:38), and a probable small breeding colony in Oshkosh, Garden County (F. Zeilemaker, pers. comm.).

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*). Regular breeding is limited to the Pine Ridge area (Rosche 1977), but sporadic nesting has occurred widely in the state, including several eastern and southeastern counties following cold springs (Wilson Bulletin 41:77).

American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*). Breeding occurs commonly throughout the state in suitable areas.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). A local but regular breeder in the Pine Ridge area (NBR 40:71; Rosche 1977).

Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). Breeding is mostly limited to the eastern half of the state, but extends locally west to Sioux County in the Pine Ridge, to Thomas County in the Sandhills, and to the Colorado border in the South Platte Valley.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). Breeding occurs through western and central Nebraska, generally west of a line from Nuckolls to Dixon counties, with sporadic breeding to Lancaster County and sometimes even to northwestern Missouri (Wilson Bulletin 82:465).

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). The approximate limits of this species' range in Nebraska seem to be west and north of a line extending from the northeastern corner of Colorado to the southeastern tip of South Dakota. Its status in the Sandhills is slightly uncertain, but it seems to be limited to the western and northern parts of this area.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). Breeds virtually throughout the state.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowi*). Probably a rare and local resident in the eastern edge and southeastern corner of the state, with actual records limited to Lancaster and Washington counties. The present status of this species is quite uncertain.

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*). Breeding probably occurs throughout most of the state except that part lying below the Platte River. There are no breeding records for Kansas, so this represents the southern edge of the species' range in the Plains States.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). Breeds throughout the state in suitable habitats, and particularly abundant in the Sandhills and Panhandle.

Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*). Accidental, with breeding records for Perkins County (NBR 42:56, 43:37) and Dundey County (Cink, pers. comm.).

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). Breeding is apparently limited to the Pine Ridge area (Sioux and Dawes counties), representing an adjunct to the breeding population of the Black Hills.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*). Breeds in suitable habitats virtually throughout the state, with the Republican River valley possibly representing the southern breeding limits in southwestern Nebraska.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). Apparently the only definite breeding record is for Hall County, in 1973 (NBR 42:9). The species is a regular migrant through the state and breeds in South Dakota, so should be looked for in northern parts of the state.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*). Regular breeding is limited to the extreme western Panhandle (at least Sioux County, probably south to Kimball County). There is a single extralimital record for Howard County in 1972 (NBR 41:8).

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). Breeds in suitable habitats throughout most of the state except for the western portions, nesting west at least as far as the eastern end of Lake McConaughy, Keith County (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). Breeding is apparently highly local, but the range presumably includes the Missouri's forested valley (no specific records), and there are local records for the vicinity of Neligh in Antelope County, Smith Lake in Sheridan County (Rosche 1977), and the Loup valley in Howard County (NBR 38:18). Territorial males have also been found at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Garden County (Fred Zeilemaker, pers. comm.).

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). The range of this species in Nebraska is rather uncertain, but it seems to be relatively local and uncommon in the northern and eastern part of the state, with very few records for south of the Platte. There are recent records for Hall and Lancaster counties; earlier ones to Webster and Nemaha counties (NBR 43:3).

McCown's Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*). The only known area of present breeding is from the southern boundary of Sioux County north to the Pine Ridge escarpment and west to the Wyoming line (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*). Breeding is limited to the northwestern corner of the state, from southern Sioux and Box Butte counties, northeastwardly to Sheridan County and perhaps northern Cherry County, where there is only circumstantial evidence of breeding (NBR 34:19).

Extinct and Formerly Breeding Species

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). Reported to formerly breed in eastern Nebraska, but now extirpated (Rapp et al. 1958).

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). There are early records of this species breeding along the Missouri (Bruner, Wolcott, and Swenk 1904), but no recent evidence of breeding in the state. It is an occasional breeder at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Missouri, and should be looked for in Richardson County.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). This species has bred in the Missouri's forested valley, and it still occurs in northwestern Missouri, but there seems to be no recent records of breeding in Nebraska.

Pergrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Extirpated. Probably once bred in Dawes County (Bruner, Wolcott, and Swenk 1904), but the nearest area of current known nesting is the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*). Extirpated. Previously bred in the Missouri's forested valley (Rapp et al. 1958), but the nearest area of known breeding is in east-central Missouri. Releases during 1968 in Nemaha County were evidently unsuccessful, with no records since 1973.

Lesser Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidocinctus*). Possibly once bred in the extreme southwestern corner of the state (Sharpe 1968), but the nearest region of current breeding is in southwestern Kansas.

Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*). Probably once bred in extreme northwestern Nebraska, and still nests in adjoining Wyoming and South Dakota. There are no modern nest records from Nebraska, but displaying birds have been reported from Sioux County, so nesting within the state boundaries would not be surprising.

Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*). This introduced species once was established in northeastern Nebraska (at least Holt and Knox counties), but has been extirpated and the nearest area of regular breeding is in central South Dakota.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedora*). This species was once believed to nest in Nebraska (Rapp et al. 1958), but currently its nearest known area of breeding is in east-central South Dakota.

Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistis migratorius*). Extinct.

Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*). The Nebraska status of this extinct species has been summarized by Swenk (1934).

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). This species probably bred in the Missouri's forested valley prior to 1900, and has been reported recently (Rapp et al. 1971), but there is no evidence of its current breeding in the state. Sightings have been made as far north as Omaha (NBR 43:20).

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*). Once apparently bred in western Nebraska (Rapp et al. 1958), but there is no evidence of recent breeding.

Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*). The breeding range of this species at least reached central Kansas and some early sightings in southeastern Nebraska suggest that it may have once bred in this state (Graber 1961).

Unsuccessfully Introduced Species

Crested Tinamou (*Eudromia elegans*). Released in 1970 without success (Rapp et al. 1971).

California Quail (*Lophortyx californicus*). Unsuccessfully introduced into eastern Nebraska in 1939 (Rapp et al. 1971).

Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata*). Introduced into the state during the late 1950's. No reports since 1962 (Rapp et al. 1971).

Coturnix Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*). Unsuccessfully introduced in 1957.

Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*). Various attempts have been made to introduce this species into Nebraska, but apparently without success (Rapp et al. 1971). However, R. Rosche (pers. comm.) believes the species might still occur in the Sandhills of central Sheridan County and in the Pine Ridge West of Crawford.

Hypothetical Breeders

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). It has been suggested that Loons have nested near Kingsley Dam, Keith County. (NBR 44:34, 60).

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). This elusive species possibly breeds rarely in Nebraska, since there are at least two summer records (NBR 41:24).

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). Although considered by Rapp et al. (1958) as a rare summer resident, there are apparently no actual breeding records for Nebraska. It is known to breed in Kansas, and thus should be looked for in Nebraska.

Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*). No actual records of breeding in Nebraska exist for this species, but territorial birds have been heard calling at Fort Robinson, Dawes County (Rosche 1977), so nesting is to be expected in the Pine Ridge area.

Chuck-will's widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*). Although no nests have been found, territorial birds have repeatedly been heard calling in extreme southeastern Nebraska (NBR 35:50) and eventually it should be possible to prove that nesting does occur in the state.

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*). There are no definite nesting records, but the species probably breeds in the southwestern Panhandle area (NBR 39:72). Additionally, it is seen every summer on the Pine Ridge from about Crawford westward (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*). The only evidence for this species breeding in the state (its nearest known area of breeding is northern Minnesota) is the capture of a female with a brood patch on 1 June 1978, in Sarpy County, and the later capture of an immature in the same general area (NBR 46:86). The possibility of confusion with the Acadian Flycatcher seems to make this record slightly questionable, but Dr. Norma Johnson, Lincoln, reported they nested there in 1978 and that she photographed adults and young. (NBR, in press).

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). There are no definite nest records for Nebraska, but breeding is probable in the central Niobrara valley and in the Pine Ridge area (NBR 35:30). Nest-building has been observed, especially in Sowbelly Canyon near Harrison (R. Rosche, pers. comm.).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*). Although there seem to be no definite breeding records for the state, this species very probably breeds in Sioux County (NBR 40:71), and is known to breed in adjoining Fall River County in South Dakota.

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthos vermivorus*). This species has been reported without apparent justification to be a rare breeder in extreme southern Nebraska, as far west as Red Cloud (Rapp et al. 1958).

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). This species has been reported without apparent justification to be a rare breeder in southeastern Nebraska (Rapp et al. 1958). The nearest area of regular breeding is eastern Oklahoma.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*). Reported breedings of this species in the late 1800's in Dakota and Richardson counties have not been followed by more recent sightings, and thus seem likely to have been the result of erroneous identification. The nearest area of known breeding is eastern Kansas.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). A reported breeding in Hall County (NBR 41:7) was not accompanied by supporting information and is presumed to be erroneous, since there is no other evidence of breeding by this species in the Plains States.

Literature Cited

- Bruner, L., R.H. Wolcott and M.H. Swenk. 1904. *A preliminary review of the birds of Nebraska*. Omaha.
- Fiala, K.L. 1970. The birds of Gage County, Nebraska *Nebraska Bird Review* 38:42-72.
- Glandon, E.W. 1948. Birds of Stapleton area of Nebraska. *Nebraska Bird Review* 16:1-21.
- Graber, J.W. 1961. Distribution, habitat requirements, and life history of the Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*). *Ecological Monographs* 31:313-336.
- Johnsgard, P.A. and R.W. Wood. 1968. Distributional changes and interactions between Prairie Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse in the midwest. *Wilson Bulletin* 80:173-188.
- Peabody, N. 1974. Nebraska's Trumpeters. pp. 47-49, in *Proceedings and Papers of the Third Trumpeter Swan Society Conference*, September 18-20, 1973.
- Rapp, W.F., Jr., J.L.C. Rapp, H.E. Baumgarten, and R.A. Moser. 1958. *Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds*. Occasional Papers of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, No. 5.
- . 1971. Above reprinted unchanged, with *Supplement through 1970* (Cortelyou, R.G., and Kent L. Fiala). Occasional Papers of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, No. 5A.
- Rosche, R.C. 1977. *Check-list of birds of northwestern Nebraska and southwestern South Dakota*. Privately printed by the author.
- Rohwer, S.A. 1971. Systematics and evolution of Great Plains meadowlarks, genus *Sturnella*. Ph. D. dissertation, University of Kansas, Lawrence.
- Sharpe, R.S. 1968. The evolutionary relationships and comparative behavior of prairie chickens. Ph. D. dissertation, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
- Short, L.L., Jr. 1961. Notes on bird distribution in the Central Plains. *Nebraska Bird Review* 29: 2-22.
- . 1965a. Bird records from northern Nebraska during the breeding season. *Nebraska Bird Review* 33:2-5.
- . 1965b. Hybridization in the flickers (*Colaptes*) of North America. *Bull. American Museum of Natural History* 129:309-428.
- Swenk, M.H. 1918. Revisory notes on the list of the birds of Nebraska. *Wilson Bulletin* 30:112-117.
- . 1934. The Interior Carolina Parakeet as a Nebraska bird. *Nebraska Bird Review* 2:55-59.
- Tout, W. 1947. *Lincoln County birds*. Privately published by the author.
— School of Life Sciences
University of Nebraska at Lincoln

BOOK REVIEWS

The Birds of South Dakota: An Annotated Check List. 1978. Nathaniel R. Whitney et. al. The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union and the W.H. Over Museum, Vermillion. 311 pp. \$10.00. (Available from Buteo Books, Box 481, Vermillion, S. Dak. 57069).

This first book-length summary of the birds of South Dakota will be of considerable interest to Nebraska ornithologists as well as those in South Dakota, because of the great similarities in the avifaunas of the two states. It includes a total of 377 species, of which 308 are considered of regular occurrence. Additionally, 205 are considered to be regular breeders in the state. By comparison, the *Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds* and supplement includes about 400 species, and my own current list of Nebraska's breeding birds includes 201 known breeding species and 13 hypothetical breeding species. Thus South Dakota seems to have a slightly larger number of breeding species than Nebraska, but fewer total species have been reported within its limits.

After an introductory discussion of geography and physiography of the state and photographs of representative habitats, the individual species accounts follow. Each of the 377 species has an associated map that indicates breeding, winter, and migratory distributions as they are currently known, and additional individual records for rare species or those outside of their regular ranges. Short statements of statewide status are included for all species, and additional sections on habitats, nesting, spring and fall migration, and wintering occurrence are included whenever appropriate. The book has a softback binding, and in addition to the photographs includes small line drawings of 54 representative species. There are useful indexes to bird species, to persons mentioned in the text, and to localities in the state.

All told, this is a most useful publication, and it fills what had been a serious gap in available information on bird distributions in the northern Great Plains.

— Paul A. Johnsgard, Lincoln.

Keith County Journal. John Janovy, Jr. Illustrated by the author. St. Martin's Press, New York. ix plus 210 pp. 6×8½, no index, hardbound. \$8.95.

The author is a professor in the School of Life Sciences, University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the book is sort of running commentary on field trips with his students to the Lake McConaughy area. They are looking for one-celled animals, but these animals spend much, if not all, of their lives as parasites, each with its favorite or exclusive host. so they hunt for the hosts — termites, snails, killifish and other fish, kangaroo rats and toads and other animals, and birds (many netted, but for blood samples to test for malaria and not banded, apparently) — and we have running comments on them, and on their habitats, and some comments on the owners of these habitats, on the human users of the habitats, and some side issues. Janovy apparently took some courses under George Miksch Sutton, whose watercolors he admires and who (apparently on an extra-curricular basis) gave him tips on technique. Unfortunately, color is used only on the dust jacket and without color the two line drawings (one of a snail, one of a Great Blue Heron) seemed to this reviewer to be more effective than the thirteen watercolors (all of birds). There is a lot of information in this book, not presented in an obviously organized manner but rather slipped in with the running comments, like medicine with orange juice, so that it is practically painless. "Apparently" is used above because the author writes in a stream-of-consciousness style. If you doubt that this style would appeal to you, try his comments on vacationers at Arthur Bay on Big Mac, starting on page 182.

— Editor

NOTES

YORK COUNTY SPECIALS. Norris Alfred and I went out for a couple of hours of birding last week and did quite well for August (1978). The less common birds we saw included two Turkey Vultures, a Blue Grosbeak (I've seen quite a few this summer), a flock of young Eastern Bluebirds, a Say's Phoebe, and two Mockingbirds.

— Lee Morris, Benedict

MISSISSIPPI KITE. We saw a Mississippi Kite on 9 September 1978 in Wilderness Park. Our field notes read: Plumage between adult and juvenile; a falconlike hawk with slate wings and back, no black auxiliaries, notched striped tail, streaked head and breast with only a light eyeline. Flew slowly and was easily mobbed by Blue Jays, not the fast flight and wingbeat of a falcon. The weather was clear and the bird perched on the top of a dead tree about 100 yards away. 7×50 binoculars were used in the observation.

— Margaret and Daryl Giblin, Lincoln

RAPTORS. I have seen five Prairie Falcons so far this fall (10 December 1978) and three Bald Eagles — two immatures and one adult — and I did see one Golden Eagle earlier this fall.

— Lee Morris, Benedict

LATE SANDHILL CRANE. On 8 December 1978 I couldn't believe my eyes when I went out to feed the cattle; there was a Sandhill Crane standing in the cattle in the lot behind the barn. (The snow is so deep that the cattle can't get anything to eat in the corn stalks.) It had been the coldest night of the season, and was still well below zero when I saw it. It not only is out of season for Sandhill Cranes, but really out of their normal flight path. The bird has been here for three days now. It is quite tame, but does fly off one to two hundred yards when we are working in the cattle lot. I scattered corn on the snow for it the last two days.

— Lee Morris, Benedict

ROBIN FEEDING YOUNG SISKINS. In April and May, 1978, a Pine Siskin and an American Robin nested in the same tree at 2132 South 42nd Street in Omaha. The tree, a small ornamental conifer, was at the corner of a small office building. The activity of the Siskins attracted me to their nest, which was 5 feet above the ground. The Robin nest, some 7 feet above the ground, was on the other side of the tree. I first saw the Siskin nest on 26 April. On 30 April there were three quite large young Siskins in the nest and the adult flew off the nest when Clyde and I were only a few feet away. In the morning and in the evening of 2 May I saw a Robin feeding the young Siskins while the adult Siskins were in a nearby tree. At 8:20 AM on 4 May a Robin was feeding the young, which were well feathered, and at 6:30 PM, while Clyde and I were observing the nest, a Robin stopped to feed them. On 8 May one dead young Siskin remained in the nest, perhaps drowned by a rain of two days. There was no evidence of the other two young. The Robin nest in the same tree was first seen on 30 April, and on 18 May there were young in the nest.

—Emma Johnson, Omaha

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS (AND OTHERS) NEAR HORDSVILLE. We really have lots of Bluebirds wintering north of here along the Platte this winter, and for some reason most of them are Mountain Bluebirds. We see some of them nearly every birding trip in that area. On 6 January 1979 Norris Alfred, Lennis Lind, and I drove around that area and as we topped one hill in the Platte bluffs we could see Bluebirds in the valley ahead. We stopped and watched for nearly half an hour as large flocks crossed and recrossed the road ahead. There were Robins mixed in with the flocks and having the light shining from behind and clear weather it was beautiful. The odd thing is that every Bluebird in the flock that we saw was a Mountain Bluebird. I don't know why they are here in such numbers this year, as I have never seen any Mountain Bluebirds in this area before. There are lots of Robins wintering here, but not as many as in some winters. We don't have many Cedar Waxwings, and I haven't seen any Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, or Townsend's Solitaires so far (12 January), which seems unusual.

— Lee Morris, Benedict

SOLITAIRES. On 27 October 1978 I saw two Townsend's Solitaires at Maxwell. I also saw a flock of Sandhill Cranes that day and another the next day. Both flocks were high in the air, and going south.

— Ruth C. Green, Bellevue

BOOK REVIEW

A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of North American Birds, Colin Harrison, William Collins Publishers, Inc., Cleveland, 416 pp., 622 eggs and 147 nestlings in full color, many line drawings, indexed, 5 × 7¼ inches, hardbound. \$11.95.

This book, which covers the area from the southern border of the U.S. to the North Pole, is like the author's previous book on European birds (*NBR* 44:31). He warns against egg collecting, and stresses the need for restraint and common sense in checking active nests. A discussion of nest types, sites, and building; egg types; hatching; and nestling types and manner of feeding follows. The author then gives three keys: to nests, to eggs, and to young nestlings and chicks. These keys are cross-referenced — whenever a species or group of species is mentioned in one key, the place (or places) it will be found in the other keys is given. This, in connection with knowledge of the nesting areas of the various species (not given in this book — to be obtained from other guides), should greatly narrow down the possibilities, but the author warns that often the only sure identification is from the parent bird. The rest of the text is given over to details for each species: usually a generalized statement for a group of related species, and for the individual species a short statement of the general type or types of terrain it prefers, and then comments on nest, breeding season, eggs, incubation, nestling, and nestling period. This latter part is more detailed than that found in some of the guides, such as Pough's, and more condensed than that in the more extensive treatments, such as Bent's, but the information can be obtained relatively easily from such other sources. To this reviewer the keys are the most important part of the book, followed by the color plates of the eggs and then of the nestlings. Anyone who does or might want to try to identify a nest would like to have this book available, but whether in his own library or in one to which he has access would depend on the expected frequency (and urgency) of the need, and on the state of his finances. The book does not (except incidentally) discuss or describe the adult birds so it is not a substitute for the usual field guide.

— Editor

NOTES

THE 1979 WINTER STORMS. In early February, on the Game Commission's TV program "Outdoor Nebraska", Mr. Ken Johnson answered a listener's question about the effect of the storm on Turkeys by saying that there was no trouble up to that time. Newspapers reported that Game Commission officials think that Bobwhites in marginal areas may be in trouble but that they won't be greatly affected in the south and southeast. On Pheasants the comments are divided: that they will do all right unless there is another storm, or that those that moved into the valleys may do all right, but that there is no way now of telling about those back in the hills. Sharp-tails and Prairie Chickens have seemingly increased in the northeast, and individuals have been reported as far down as the Fremont and Omaha areas. This movement is ascribed to the snow cover, the lack of preferred types of food, and a high population. In a 1950 comment on the '49 blizzard (*NBR* 18:32) Clyde Licking, of Seneca, Thomas County, said that the Sharp-tails and Prairie Chickens left until the bad weather was over, and then came back, had a very good hatch and survival rate, and that there were then more of them than he had seen since he was a boy at home. But he said that they lost every Pheasant on their place, and almost all of those in the Sandhills. All current accounts point out the difference between the present situation of almost uniform snow cover and the '49 situation of many bare areas, which allowed cattle (and deer and antelope) to forage. These bare areas not only provided birds with access to food, but also to the grit they need. There were many reports of depredation by deer and antelope on food supplies intended for cattle, but few by birds. Out west some Canadas were said to be feeding on baled alfalfa, and some 10,000 ducks (mostly Mallards) wintering on an ice-free drainage ditch near Gretna, Sarpy County, were raiding silage piles and an unharvested cornfield. But those birds that moved in with the cattle apparently did not arouse resentment.

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
5109 Underwood Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68132

Address Correction Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Omaha, Nebr.
Permit No. 716

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1978 Treasurer's Report	2
The Breeding Birds of Nebraska	3
Book Reviews	17, 19
Notes	17, 19

I have heard no general comments on non-game birds, but in the Omaha area they apparently were pretty hard hit. A few days after the ice storm almost everything above the snow plants, trees, fences, even buildings — still had a thick coat of ice, and the plowed roads (except those with heavy travel) were still covered with a thick ice coat, which presumably also covered the shoulders. I have found birding, except right on the roads, very unproductive. Ruth Green, Bellevue, has found many more dead birds than usual, and her pupils have brought her many more than usual. She had netted more than 300 winter birds before the storms, but after mid-January the population changed and she no longer got any of her "old-timers" back, presumably because of a southern shift in populations. Meadowlarks have started coming to her patio for the first time, and the two she netted (Westerns) were in very poor condition. The Padelfords, of Bellevue, have been doing more cross-country skiing than birding recently, but they have seen many dead Meadowlarks along the roads, and have had reports of Pheasants coming to feeders. They have noticed, as I have, Horned Larks in larger flocks than usual and staying closer to the road. After the '49 blizzard the Lickings found many frozen Horned Larks, Longspurs, and House Sparrows. The Padelfords are seeing what seemed to them an unusual number of Rough-legged Hawks and Kestrels.

—R.G. Cortelyou, Omaha

WINTERING RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS. On 10 January 1979 I saw two Red-headed Woodpeckers at Oak Creek, seven miles north of Cairo. I do not remember seeing any here in the winter before.

— Wm. Lemburg, Cairo